

THE BOSTON INFORMER

No. 102

The truly highbrow rag for people who can read...April Fools issue

April 1, 2012

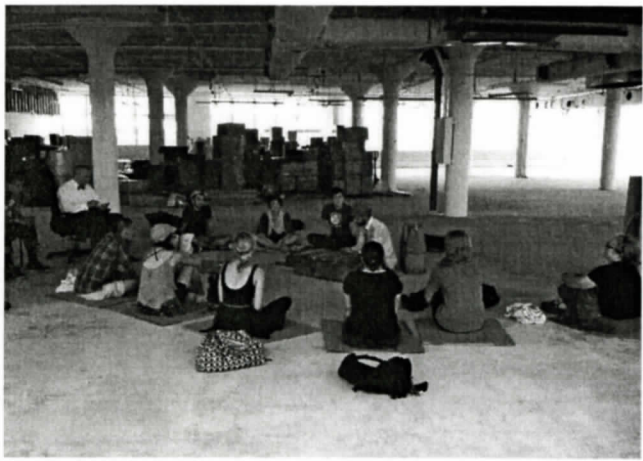


Hubway partners with Boston Barge Co.—The threat of losing ferry service to help balance the MBTA budget led a number of contingency plans from entrepreneurs. Hubway, Boston's bike share program, expanded its service area to Quincy to help the stranded ferry passengers (do they know about the Red Line?). When freight and barge companies

proposed to swing by the Quincy ferry terminal and pick up passengers headed to Boston, Hubway partnered with them to transport bicycles back to Boston to be redistributed. And faced with longer trips from Cambridge, Brookline and Somerville to redistribute bikes, Hubway is planning multiple bike ferries between the Harvard and BU bridges and Museum of Science.

Innovation Center To Open in Seaport District

Boston's innovative \$5.5 million Innovation Center in the Innovation District is designed to foster innovative ways to collaborate and communicate. The innovative single-story building will offer free space to innovative start-up companies by using an innovative financial model. Revenue from the innovative restaurant will cover operating costs. Unlike its sister facility in Kendall Square, Boston's Innovation Center won't offer office space for individual companies. The main innovative feature of the Innovation Center is it will offer space for meetings. An innovative artist's rendering is shown below.



Casino Gaming Comes to Boston

With the Gaming Commission now set up (in more ways than one with good odds), Boston's design community is excited to get in on action. The Boston Society of Architects (BSA) declared war on cookie-cutter casino design and announced a design competition for the resort casino VERY likely to be located in East Boston.

The Harvard Square Free Tibet designers are pushing to make a statement about Tibet by mimicking the Lhasa temple. Others figure it's safer to align with Speaker DullLeo and go for the Colosseum effect. With unemployment among Boston architects still sky-high, BSA predicts a lot of entries. Entries will be available to the winning casino bidder who will probably hire a New York architect instead. BSA would like to publicly display the winning entries on the back of lottery tickets and MassPike toll receipts.



Movies Not to Miss!

The Vow — a gripping story about the school for political candidates teaching them "The Vow," a promise not to raise taxes, provide benefits to everyone, lower the price of gasoline and balance the budget.

The Muppets — a documentary about financial institution Goldman Sachs systems for defrauding its clients referred to as "muppets."

Silent House — a suspense story as State House members hold their breath waiting to hear what ex-Speaker and convicted felon Sal DiMasi told the Grand Jury.



The Darkness — an inspirational tale about how the electric utility companies impose darkness on cities and towns in punishment for their sins.

A Thousand Words — a training film for bureaucrats on how to use a thousand words where ten would suffice.

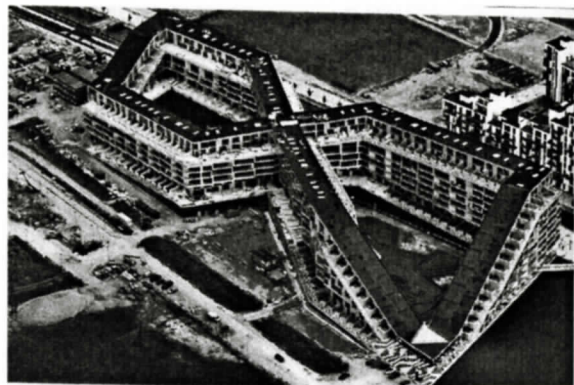
Act of Valor — a fictional story about a politician who dares to say that unless we raise taxes, decaying infrastructure will make us a third-world country.

Project X — a mystery story about how the sites for casinos in Massachusetts will be chosen.

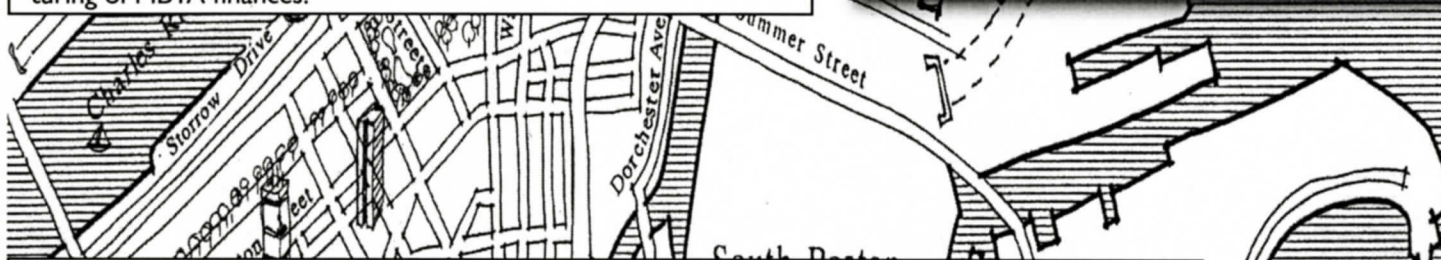
Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close — the story of transit activists making their argument for wholesale and permanent restructuring of MBTA finances.

Alternative Marathon Considered

The Boston Athletic Association (BAA) is considering an alternative Boston Marathon after much chagrin and complaints about shutting down city and town streets from Hopkinton to Boston. With input from the Boston Society of Architects, BAA is designing a mixed-income housing complex that features a running track on the roof and goes from ground level to the 12th floor (120 feet in elevation) and has a number of Heartbreak Hills to simulate the original route. The innovative idea is presently making its way through the various City agencies. Unfortunately, Don Chiofaro is part of the investment team, so progress is likely to be very slow.



Innovative figure-8 design maximizes space for Marathon.



Rose Kennedy Greenway News

Accused of failing to take the bold steps needed to make the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway Boston's "main" open space, the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenback Conservancy is stepping up. Spurred by a \$1.6 million donation from an anonymous donor, has launched what it calls a "bold, cutting-edge and expensive" gimmick to attract people to the Greenway, a \$3 million custom carousel.

"Forget all those intellectual museums and boring public art we have been wasting time on," said Greenback Conservancy head Nancy Brahmin. "Someone dropped \$1.6 million in our laps for this thing and we are going to make it the greatest thing since sliced bread."

Brahmin predicted that the carousel will quickly become a bigger draw to Boston than the Freedom Trail, JFK Library and Fenway Park combined. "Hotels, restaurants and Duck Tours will include the carousel in their literature and websites," she said. Experts from the merry-go-round museum in Sandusky, Ohio, are being flown in regularly to consult on the key elements of a carousel, including the design and color of the tickets, sure to be collectors' items.



Promotional video showing projected crowds at Greenway Carousel. The ride is expected to be popular once people realize it is similar to a number of things happening of late—going around in circles but not getting anywhere.



Sharing Programs Expand

As reported last year, the "sharing" concept that began with car share is exploding. People all over are asking themselves why they should buy when they can rent or share common items such as lawn mowers, blenders, electric hair trimmers, etc. And with the MBTA's financial woes forcing creative transportation solutions that include constituents such as Boston Harbor water taxi operators, a new Hubway zip-canoe undertaking is set to begin at the Lewis Wharf Mall in East Boston immediately following completion of Clippership Wharf Apartments. Life jackets are recommended.



Hubway zip-canoe will soon be available in East Boston.

What's Up?

Boston to Make it Easier to Recycle — Attempting to raise the City's pitifully low rate of resident recycling, Mayor Thomas Menino will introduce a new program on April 1 that will allow residents to simply throw all cans, bottles, and papers onto the sidewalk instead of having to bother to sort and place recyclables in a blue bin. City workers (supplemented by homeless collectors of deposit receptacles) will make weekly passes down all city streets (twice weekly in neighborhoods with narrow sidewalks such as Beacon Hill) to collect the recyclables. Menino said his staff ran complex models that predict that the time savings along—not to mention the thrill of just opening the window and chucking a soup can onto the sidewalk—will double the City's recycling rate to 70%. Blue bins are still allowed, and residents will be encouraged, but not required, to place large items such as televisions and cartons in the bins instead of throwing on the sidewalk.

MBTA Announces Fare and Service Plan — After 30 meetings and 6,000 e-mail suggestions on how to save money and save the MBTA, the MBTA spent a day reviewing the ideas and released its revised plan to save itself. Gone are the drastic cuts which would have required passengers to empty the trash barrels themselves and take turns at the train controls. Instead, the MBTA will address its deficit by raising fares; begin charging for exiting the station as well as entering; charging to use the escalators and elevators; offering rides in the cab of the train for a fee; and seeking advertising on every square inch of the stations, including on the floor. Secretary of Transportation Richard Daffy said he was relieved the drastic cuts were not needed, and that he will be the first to pay to ride in the train cab.

Girl Scouts Come to MassDOT Aid — East Brookfield Girl Scout Troop 742 was horrified to read that MassDOT had to borrow money for operating expenses to pay its workers, the light bill and buy toilet paper. So the troop stepped up to the plate and donated the proceeds of its cookie sale. Trixie Watson, Girl Scout, said, "It's the least we can do. But how stupid can you get—borrowing to pay operating expenses?" She added that they expect a big order of cookies from folks at MassDOT next year.

Headlines You'll Never Read

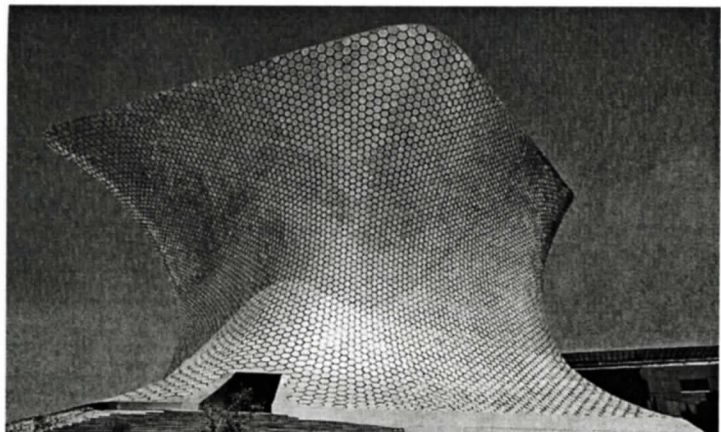
- ✓ Legislature, Governor agree on need to raise gas tax
- ✓ Dainty Dot development called asset to Chinatown
- ✓ Boston Police issue record number of tickets for moving violations
- ✓ Chan Rogers, P.E. takes up jigsaw puzzles in his spare time
- ✓ MBTA Green Line Extension completed on time, under budget
- ✓ Transformation of Ft. Point Channel complete
- ✓ So. Station air rights development nearing completion; track expansion to follow

What is This?

Be the first to correctly identify the object in the photo below and win a valuable prize. This is harder than it appears. Clues may or may not be helpful:

- ◆ Solar-powered storage...
- ◆ Steel industry sculpture...
- ◆ Museum of bathroom tiles and...

Send all guesses to The Boston Informer via e-mail to bostoninformer@cs.com. "Valuable prize" is a subjective term. But since we never get any guesses, we could offer a truly valuable prize, but we have real interest in doing that, anyway.



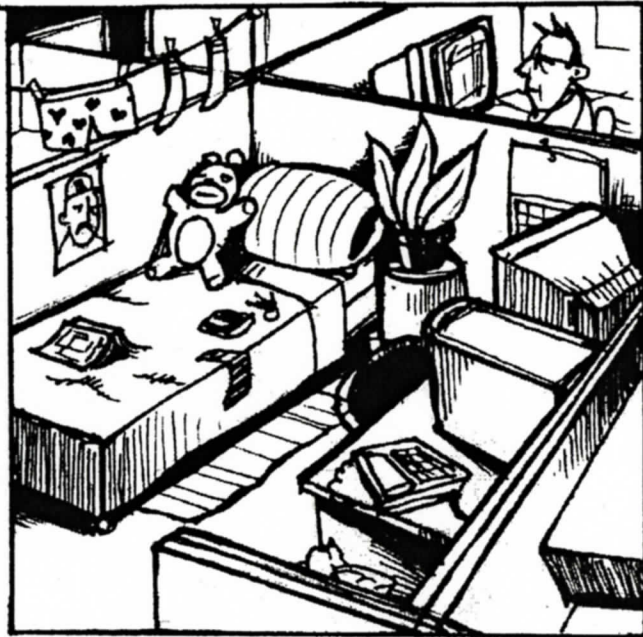
Welcome to The Boston **Mis**Informer,

the annual April Fool's issue of The Boston Informer, an otherwise "serious" newsletter covering development, construction and transportation downtown.

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Mayor Menino calls for tiny apartments in the Innovation District for cool innovators that require creative arrangements...and \$1,500 for rent



Innovation District apartments will give
new meaning to cozy

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Library

Boston Architectural College

You Were Asking

- Q. I read the City wants to put a giant sign on top of the new school department building in Dudley Square that says "DUDLEY." What's the point?
- A. A new Menino initiative is branding the neighborhoods, business districts and even individual blocks. Look for big signs, electronic billboards and banners identifying the area...and Mayor Menino soon.
- Q. Many miles of streets were built, rebuilt and realigned as part of the Central Artery Project. How come not one bike lane or bike rack was installed as part of that project?
- A. There is no explanation.
- Q. I heard Bunker Hill Community College is considering moving to former Suffolk University buildings on Beacon Hill and changing its name. Is this true?
- A. Somehow we cannot picture Beacon Hill Community College.
- Q. What is happening to Melnea Cass Boulevard? I heard it was being rebuilt.
- A. Design concepts have been floated that would widen the Lower Roxbury street by adding bike lanes, parking and transit reservation. Also being considered are skateboard lanes and a high-speed lane. One will need to take a cab to cross the super-wide street.
- Q. What's the latest with the Hub Ticket site in the Theater District? The ads and billboards just make some out-of-state company money; my friend with the trailer is gone.
- A. Nothing. The BRA recently granted another one-year extension of the designation; 30 years of "planning" and counting.